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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/595,167	06/15/2000	James M. Brugger	17742-002510	2793

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, CRIS LOIREN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/595,167	Applicant(s) BRUGGER ET AL.	
Examiner Cris L. Rodriguez	Art Unit 3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,8,9,11,13 and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,10,12,14 and 16-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 June 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species A)figure 1, claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12, 14, and 16-26 in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 6.
3. Please notes that claim 11 has been withdrawn from consideration by the examiner as been not readable on the elected species.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the blunt cannula as set forth in claim 22 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 21, 25 and 26 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant

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is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

- Claim 21 does not further limit the method with a step. For example: "introducing the access tube....).
- The preamble of claims 25 and 26 are directed to kit, and they depend from claims 18 and 19 respectively which are directed to a method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16-20, 21, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wigness et al (US 5,290,263).

Wigness discloses an implantable port and a substance delivering method subcutaneously. The port has a body 28 with a flow passage having an upstream and downstream end, a pressure-responsive valve at 24 positioned in the flow passage downstream portion. Wigness also recognizes that a slit valve can also be used (col. 2 lines 41-48).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was

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made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 6 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wigness et al in view of Prosl et al (US 4,569,675).

Wigness discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Wigness fails to disclose the housing being made of stainless steel, and the access tube being a blunt cannula.

Prosl teaches an implantable port where the access tube has a blunt cannula. Given the teachings, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Prosl's cannula in Wigness's implantable port. Doing so would have delivered a substance to a target site. Also, the selection of a known material based on its suitability (such as the stainless steel for the housing) has been considered as an obvious design choice, as supported by the obviousness determination in *Sinclair & Carroll Co. v. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945).

10. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wigness et al in view of Kaplan et al (US 6,162,238).

Wigness discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Wigness, fails to disclose the kit having instructions having the steps as claimed, and a package to contain the implantable port and the instructions.

Kaplan teaches a kit (fig. 9) including an implantable system 12,16, instructions, and a package 304 to contain the implantable port and the instructions. Given the teachings, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

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at the time the invention was made to modify Wigness's kit by including instructions and a package as evidenced by Kaplan as old and well known. Also, the instructions (descriptive material) are not functionally related to the instruments or tools of the kit (which are not even a substrate for the printed matter), and, as such, do not distinguish the invention from the prior art. *In re Gulack*, (CAFC) 217 USPQ 401; *In re Miller*, (CCPA) 164 USPQ 46.

Conclusion


11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Finch et al, Zanon et al, Dormandy, Jr. Et al, Trawoger, Wigness et al ('501 and '806), Bokros, and Lord et al.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cris L. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-2194. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (703) 308-3552. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 305-3590 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

June 6, 2002


BRIAN L. CASLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700


Cris L. Rodriguez
Examiner
Art Unit 3763